IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 11, 13, and 21 as shown in attached Appendix A.

A clean copy of all pending claims 1-22 is provided in attached Appendix A.

APPENDIX A

1 (Currently Amended). A device for recognizing ~~the~~ a locked condition of a seat belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by a change in inductance.

2 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is arranged by a multi-turn conductor loop.

3 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is applied on a printed circuit.

4 (Original). The device of claim 2, wherein the conductor loop is planar.

5 (Currently Amended). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

an evaluation circuit which ~~continues~~ comprises an oscillator circuit.

6 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit further comprises:

a differentiating circuit for the recognition of

oscillation.

7 (Original). The device of claim 5, wherein the oscillator circuit is evaluated by a micro-controller.

8 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising

a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

9 (Original). The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

10 (Original). The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

11 (Currently Amended). A seat belt buckle comprising:

a seat belt buckle carrier;

a seat belt buckle tongue;

an ejector;

a locking component; and

a device for recognizing ~~the~~ a locked condition of ~~a~~ the seat belt buckle ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a sensor that

directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by a change in inductance.

12 (Original). The seat belt buckle of claim 11, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

13 (Currently Amended). A device for recognizing a locked condition of a safety belt buckle, the device comprising:

a sensor that directly interrogates ~~a locked~~ the condition of the safety belt buckle by a change in a coupling factor.

14 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor is arranged by two multi-turn conductor loops.

15 (Original). A device according to claim 14, wherein the multi-turn conductor loops are arranged in a concentric and bifilar manner.

16 (Original). A device according to claim 14, wherein the conductor loops are applied on a printed circuit.

17 (Original). A device according to claim 16, wherein the conductor loops are planar.

18 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the device comprises a leaf spring manufactured from a material selected from the group diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.

19 (Original). A device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor is part of a voltage transmission circuit.

20 (Original). A device according to claim 13, further comprising:

a switching controller for the recognition of a voltage.

21 (Currently Amended). A seat belt buckle comprising:

a seat belt buckle carrier;

a seat belt buckle tongue;

an ejector;

a locking component; and

a device for recognizing ~~the~~ a locked condition of ~~a~~ the seat belt buckle ~~according to claim 13~~ comprising a sensor that directly interrogates the condition of the seat belt buckle by a

change in a coupling factor.

22 (Original). The seat belt buckle of claim 21, wherein the seat belt buckle tongue is manufactured from a material selected from the group consisting of diamagnetic, paramagnetic and ferromagnetic.